

CENTERVILLE-OSTERVILLE-MARSTONS MILLS FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3, 2024

PRESENT: Carlton B. Crocker, John Lacoste, David Lawler, Prudential Committee; Molly Stevens, Clerk/Treasurer; Michael Winn, Fire Chief; Byron Eldredge, Deputy Fire Chief

The meeting convened at 6:01 PM.

Public Comment: None.

David Lawler made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2023 meeting as printed, John Lacoste seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Michael Winn: The Chief began with a quick department update and submitted the Fire Commissioners Report for December. Of note, the Fire Prevention program getting into the schools for ice safety and the recent Nero's training sessions held at COMM Headquarters, which were very well attended. There were live dogs used in the Nero's training and State Representative Xiarhos was at each session to explain the moving parts of getting this bill passed; currently passed in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine and in the works in Connecticut and Rhode Island. The law allows pre-hospital providers to be trained to provide life-saving measures to Public Safety canines.

The Chief also noted that there were 408 calls in November, 142 were fire and the rest EMS. The Community Risk Reduction Program did 31 Senior Safe visits. In total we responded to 5,425 calls in 2023.

The Chief spoke about the newest hires returning from the academy and getting right to work. The fire budget is in line at the halfway point of FY24 and the rough draft budget in the works with budget lines being looked at in depth for accuracy for the next fiscal year, with note that the contracts for the fire fighters and dispatchers need to be settled before concrete wage lines can be set.

There was a discussion about the possible Dispatch center that Barnstable, Yarmouth, and Sandwich are proposing and how the endeavor would affect operations and budgets here. At this stage there is no way to capture how the process might work.

Chairman Crocker asked about possible articles for the budget and the Chief said definitely there would be one to cover the price differences for the two ambulances that we will be getting in FY25, and maybe for painting station one. Deputy Eldredge added possible articles for protective gear, station maintenance, and they are working on a good capital plan for 5-10 years out. The plan is to have a complete list for the next meeting.

Carlton Crocker stated there is a lot to be done and we need to plan properly. David Lawler mentioned the bargaining contract is obviously a large consideration.

Molly Stevens: Molly discussed the preparation for the upcoming budget season and how she presented the budget process at the Officer's meeting the week prior. She plans to focus on items that the other departments need from her to complete their budgets.

Molly and Carlton have been reviewing applications for the Assistant Clerk/Treasurer position so we can schedule interviews and get a person in place in the next few weeks. Molly also announced that it was her official one-year anniversary. Expenditure statements through 12/31/23 were handed out and things look on target.

Date of the next meeting was decided on Wednesday 2/14/2024, with a possible extra budget meeting on Wednesday 2/28/2024 if needed.

Public Comment: None

John Lacoste made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 PM.

Molly Stevens, Clerk/Treasurer